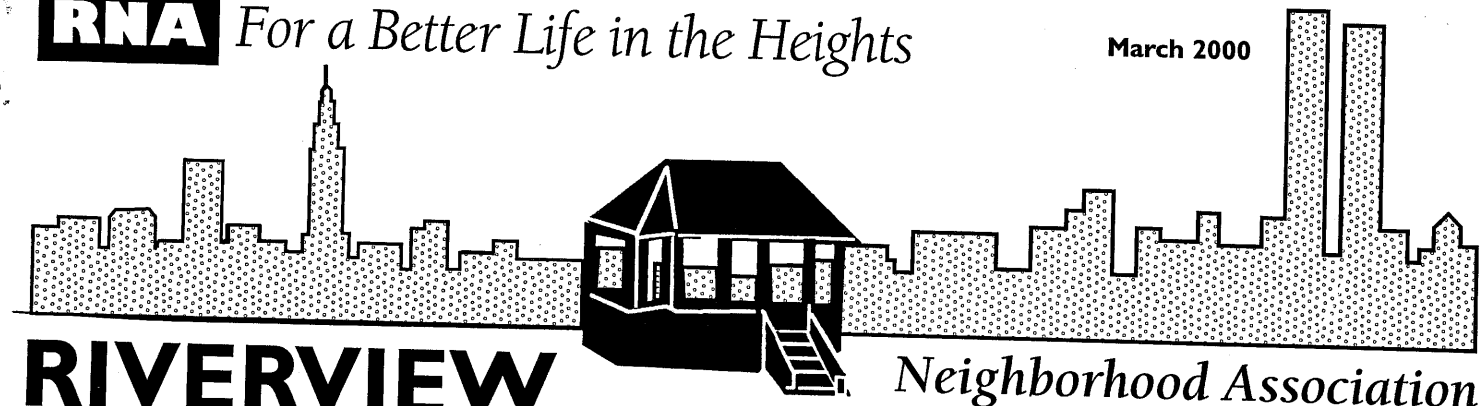
RNA *For a Better Life in the Heights*

March 2000



RIVERVIEW *Neighborhood Association*

232 Ogden Avenue • Jersey City, NJ 07307 • 201 798 0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION or ELECTED OFFICIAL

Just say "NO" to MILLENNIUM TOWERS!

Within the last month, RNA has been actively working with the other neighborhood associations in the Heights community - **Sgt. Anthony** N.A., **Heights Hope** N.A., **Palisade Avenue Coalition**, and the **Hilltop** N.A. - to organize opposition against a high-rise proposal known as Millennium Towers. These Heights groups are also aligned with the Downtown neighborhood associations from **Hamilton Park** and **Paulus Hook**, two Hoboken civic organizations: **Coalition for a Better Waterfront** (CFBW) and the **Quality of Life Coalition**, and the **Hudson Alliance for Responsible Transportation** (HART) to fight this project.

Description of the Project

What is Millennium Towers? It is a proposal for a **43 story high-rise** development to be built below the Palisade cliffs - on a 3.1 acre of land located between Jersey Avenue and Grove Street - off of 18th Street. It will contain approximately 551 residential rental units *(with 711 bedrooms)*; 844 parking spaces *(446 residential, 146 commercial spaces and 252 res/comm.)*; and **181,000 square feet** of commercial space for retail development.

The proposal calls for two 37 story residential towers to be built on top of a six story pedestal which will contain three stories of parking, two stories of commercial retail and one story of amenities including a gym, swimming pool and running track. The site is bordered on the north by the New Jersey Transit (NJT) trestle embankment and on the south by a parcel of land owned by Newport's developer, Mr. Lefrak. The Holland Garden Housing projects are located about two or three blocks to the south of the site.

This proposal would be situated in a largely industrial area located between Hoboken to the north, Hamilton Park to the south, the waterfront to the east and the Palisade cliffs to the west. This area is governed by the **Jersey City Redevelopment Plan** (JARP) which establishes it zoning requirements. The developers are asking the City to amend the JARP for additional height and floor area ratio allowances without which this project could not be built. Currently, the plan limits all development in the zone to a height of 110 feet *(approximately the same height as the Palisade cliffs)*. The developers are asking for a 300% height increase to build the 43 stories. They are also asking for an 20% increase in the zone's floor area ratio, or a project's total square footage, from a factor of 5 to 6.

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The site only has frontage or street access on Jersey Avenue *(approximately 70 feet)* and Grove Street *(approximately 120 feet)*. Both roads are truck routes but currently experiencing daily congestion with north-south commuter traffic. The main artery closest to the site would be 18th Street which is the northern extension of Washington Blvd, known as the waterfront highway. Unfortunately, the site has no direct access to 18th Street because it is landlocked by the Lefrak property.

The developer/contractors are Joseph and Lance Lucarelli and Michael Galella of United Diversified of Bayonne. Joseph Lucarelli claims that he has been in construction for 45 years and has built hi-rise projects in Trenton and Atlantic City. John O'Donnell, the attorney for this project is also representing the 1600 Park Avenue hi-rise proposal in Hoboken. It was recently learned Mr. O'Donnell is also an attorney for the **Jersey City Economic Development Corporation.**

The developer's main selling point for this proposal is that they are promising the City that NJT will build a stop for the Hudson-Bergen Light-Rail system in the concourse portion of their pedestal. *(However, NJT recently confirmed that although it has had various discussions with the developers concerning this project, there is no commitment to build a Light-Rail stop at this site.)*

BE ADVISED: New Dates!

RNA will RESCHEDULE its next meeting from Tuesday, **March 14th** to the following **Tuesday, March 21st.** The decision was made with the consensus of the Executive officers and members of the Planning and Development Committee.

The reason for this decision is that on Tuesday, March 14th, the **Jersey City Planning Board** will hear the application for the *Millennium Towers* project. The City's Planning Division in support of this project, is expected to recommend that the Board adopt the project's proposed amendments to the Jersey Avenue Redevelopment Plan as to height, floor area ratio and setbacks.

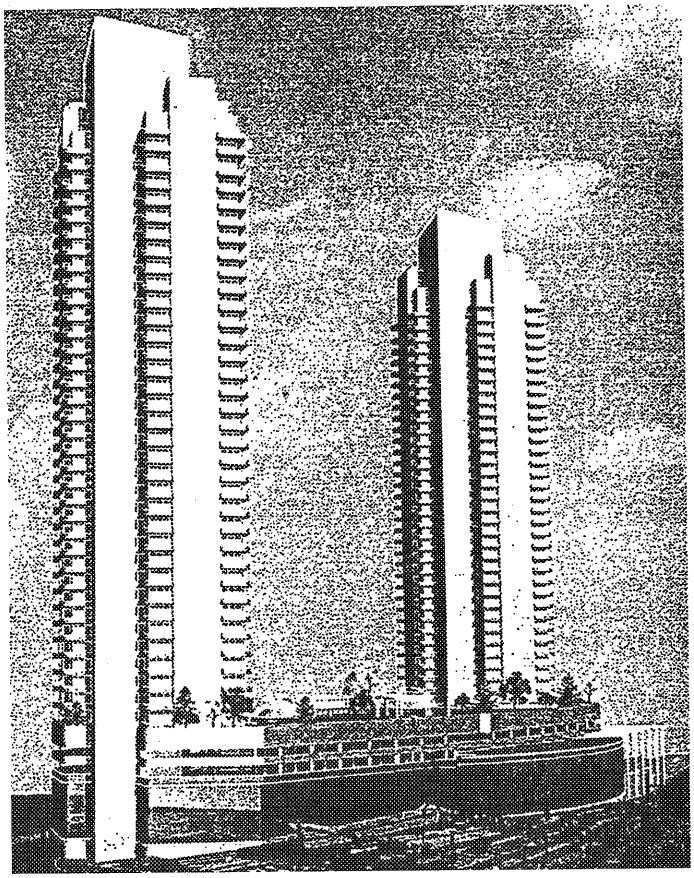
RNA URGES ALL ITS MEMBERS, NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND THIS PLANNING BOARD MEETING ON TUESDAY, **MARCH 14TH**, at **6:30 PM** in the **CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS** at **CITY HALL**, 280 GROVE STREET to OPPOSE THIS PROJECT!

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

In response to this proposal, representatives of the Heights community have attended several meetings in the last month to learn about this project.

Developer's Presentation:

On February 3rd, **Roy Zevotek** of the Department of Housing, Economic Development and Commerce (HEDC) arranged a meeting in which the developers made a presentation of the project to the community. At-large Councilman **Harvey Smith** attended the meeting at the invitation of several of the Heights groups. The project architect, **Ismael Leyva** of New York City, presented a series of computer-generated photographs showing how the project would appear from Riverview-Fisk Park. The developers admitted that they would apply for a 20 year tax abatement for this project. *(The developers made a similar presentation to members of several neighborhood associations from the Downtown area two weeks prior.)*



At this meeting, different members of the Heights community expressed their disapproval of the project with the following comments:

1) the proposed height amendment to **440 feet** would establish a bad precedent for all future developments in the area,
2) the street traffic generated by the project would only exacerbate an existing congestion problem in the area that spills out into the existing communities of Hoboken and Hamilton Park;
3) the additional Light-Rail ridership generated by this project will only worsen an already overwhelmed PATH system at the Hoboken and Jersey City stations;
4) the design of the building will not integrate the project's residents, commuters and shoppers into the existing local communities;
5) the pedestal is not a user friendly access to the project for existing residents of the adjacent communities; and
6)the project will destroy the Heights community's public open space views of the New Jersey waterfront, the Hudson River and the New York City skyline.

Robert Cotter, the City's Director of Planning, described this project as a "bold stroke" that would help create the Jersey City skyline...and he was "willing to ride out the flack" from the community's opposition to it.

Strategy Meeting:

On February 9th, RNA met with representatives of the CFBW and the Friends of the Weehawken Waterfront to discuss organizing strategies to stop the Millennium Towers project. It was decided that it was necessary to educate the community about this project and then to ask them to write letters and make phone calls to our elected officials and our local news media to express their concerns. It was also recommended that a lobbying effort be initiated to convince all the City council representatives to vote against any amendments to the redevelopment plan.

There was a discussion that the existing JARP was not comprehensive because it did not provide for any urban planning for this area. It was generally agreed that the City needed to design a master plan for this area to reflect existing conditions and also provide for reasonable and rational development. Several people also expressed their concern that this area should be maintained as a light industrial zone for the existing companies already located there and also for new companies that are relocating from New York City.

Sgt. Anthony Meeting:

On February 17th, members of RNA attended the monthly meeting of the Sgt. Anthony N.A. to hear **Robert Cotter**, the City's Director of Planning, discuss the City's plans for zoning and development along Palisade Avenue. In addition, he answered questions about the Millennium Towers project. He described this project as a "bold stroke" that was needed to help establish the Jersey City skyline.

He announced that instead of rezoning the entire JARP, he favored an amendment to the plan's height limit for this site only because of the promise of a light-rail stop. In response to a question about the potential traffic problem that this project would generate, he stated that any problem would be allievated by the Light Rail system and the proposed Bergen Arches solution of separating commuter traffic from tunnel traffic.

Meeting With Planning Division:

On Tuesday, February 29th, the above Heights groups met with Robert Cotter and two City planners, **Douglas Greenfeld** and **Maryann Bucci-Carter** to discuss this project and several other issues. Also in attendance were members from Hamilton Park, Paulus Hook, HART, CFBW and the Quality of Life Coalition. **Mariano Vega**, the council representative of the Downtown Ward where this project would be located, was also present.

The first issue discussed was the recommendation that a steep slope ordinance be included in the recommendations for the new Master Plan being drafted for Jersey City. This legislation would prevent any development on the face or on top of the Palisade cliffs running through the City. Although Cotter supported this idea, he did make any commitment to include the area at the base of the cliffs in his recommendation.

Mr. Cotter next discussed the Master Plan

recommendations to rezone the area below the cliff (outside the JARP) from industrial to residential. The group advocated that the zoning be restricted to residential townhouses with heights of no more than four or five stories. Although Mr. Cotter agreed this area should expand upon the small-scale development model in neighboring Hoboken, he did not make any firm commitment to this proposal.

Mr. Cotter next addressed the main topic of the meeting the City's position on the Millennium Towers proposal. From the outset, he made it very clear that the Planning Division was in favor of this project and was "willing to ride out the flack" from the community's opposition to it. As he had already announced at the Sgt. Anthony meeting, he would only support the project's request for a height amendment to 43 stories if there was a guarantee of a NJT stop in the development. Surprisingly, he was not willing to listen to the representatives from the Hoboken, Downtown and Heights communities expressing their various concerns of overdevelopment, traffic congestion, the setting of bad precedence, and the blocking of views.

He admitted that because of the small number of Planning staff, his division was always overwhelmed. Therefore, he was only able to react and play catch-up to development applications - instead of being able to professionally plan rational urban designs for this and other areas of the City to which the developer's would have to conform to.

As we go to press, RNA executives and members of the Planning and Development have decided by consensus, to organize with the other neighborhood and civic organizations to fight this project. In this newsletter, RNA has provided the mailing addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of our elected and public officials and a form letter to be sent to these officials urging them to oppose this project. In addition, RNA with the other organizations will lobby the City Councilpersons to vote against any amendments to the Jersey Avenue Redevelopment Plan in order to defeat the Millenium Towers project.

RNA urges its readers to mail, telephone or e-mail the enclosed blue PROTEST LETTER to the list of printed city and county officials and newspapers. Please reproduce this letter to send it to as many officials as you can.

VOTE: RNA ELECTIONS

It's time to elect the individuals who will hold the RNA executive positions of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Sgt.-at-Arms for the 2000 - 2001 term. Nominations were opened during the February meeting and will remain open until the end of the March 21st meeting - at which time the voting will take place.

To hold office, individuals must satisfy the following requirements:

a) reside within the following area:
Ogden and Palisade Aves
from Cuneo Place to Congress Street;
b) must be 18 years old; and
c) paid RNA's annual 2000 dues.

To be nominated, the name of an eligible member is offered by either another person or themselves and then seconded by another member.

To be eligible to vote, an individual must either reside or own a business or residential property within the above area.

During the February meeting, the following names have been placed in nomination for RNA executive positions:

CHAIRPERSON:
Vito Brunetti *(incumbent)*
Rick Leon
Kevin Mahony

SECRETARY:
John McCarthy
Gail Nicholson
Maria Tuzzo *(inc.)*

VICE-CHAIR:
Vito Brunetti
Steven Carr
Kevin Mahony *(inc.)*

TREASURER:
Beth Derrico *(inc.)*
Tim Gilliard
Maria Tuzzo

SGT.-AT-ARMS:
Steven Carr
John McCarthy

The success and longevity of RNA is based on the participation of our members, neighbors and friends. Get involved by either nominating someone or being nominated yourself! More important, please come to the meeting and vote in this election. Remember by participating in this important activity you will have a voice in the decisions being made in your community.

REMINDER to SIGN UP for

PERMIT PARKING

The **Jersey City Parking Authority** (JCPA) will soon begin enforcing the Residential Zone #2 Permit Parking Program in our community. Individuals without a permit displayed on the rear window of their vehicle, will only be allowed to park on the streets for a maximum of two hours - after which they will be subject to a parking summons and other penalties. Enforcement will be from 8 AM to 9 PM. If your motor vehicle is registered at a Jersey City address, you are a resident and only required to pay a **$5.00** annual fee for the parking permit. If your motor vehicle is registered at a non-Jersey City address, you are considered a "non-resident" and required to pay an annual fee of $250.00 for the same parking priviledge.

A copy of the parking application is in the back of this newsletter. You can either file the application in person between Monday to Friday between 9AM to 5PM or mail it in with a check payable to the Parking Authority. For more information, call **(201) 653-6969.**

Springtime Events

SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP: The Riverview Neighborhood Association will be sponsoring its Annual Spring Clean Up Saturday May 6, 2000. So check your calendar and set aside a few hours to join us. This semi-annual event is just one of RNA's regular commitments to our neighborhood, for a better life in Heights.

The day's activities are expected to begin at 8:00 a.m. and will initially focus on the cleaning of our two parks: Janet Moore Park at the corner of Cuneo Place and Ogden Avenues; and Riverview-Fisk Park, bound by Palisade Avenue and Griffith and Bower Streets. As in the past, we will be spending time conducting a general **Spring Cleaning** of the Parks and weeding of the public flowerbeds.

In addition to the two park projects, we are also looking for other ideas for projects that can be implemented by the group and hopefully finished that day. For those that remember, last year we had approximately 45 participants at our Spring Clean Up. If you have any suggestions, let us know. Of course, the projects that we can initiate will require your help and the incremental participation of other volunteers. So, the more volunteers we have the bigger the projects we can take on. One suggestion received at the February RNA meeting was to remove the trash and litter accumulated below Riverview-Fisk Park along Paterson Plank Road. Can you think of something that needs to be done?

As with previous clean up weekends, we have arranged the use of two City owned dumpsters for the disposal of large household debris. As in the past, a dumpster will be placed at the North end of our community on Hobson Street and on the Southern end at Franklin Street. You are reminded to limit your use of the dumpsters to house

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hold items only. As once the dumpsters are filed, that's it till fall!

We hope you will be available to participate in these activities and you will alert your friends and neighbors. If you would like to volunteer or lead a specific activity, please let us know. Our neighbor, **Kevin Mahony** will be coordinating the day's events for the Association. Please call Kevin at **798-4676** and sign-up. We will also be planning a simple barbecue for all of the volunteers after we have finished our work. So show your pride in our neighborhood and join us MAY 6th.

PARK FAIR AND FLEA MARKET: This year, RNA has decided to hold its 16th annual outdoor event on **Saturday, June 3rd** *(with a raindate of Saturday, June 10th)* in Riverview-Fisk Park.

We need a lot of volunteers to help plan and coordinate the event for advertising, reservations, soliciting food and sales vendors and other activities.

We also looking for people the day of the event to help run our numerous activities, including morning set-up and clean-up, the coffee & cake and RNA donations tables, escorting the senior residents from the Harbor View Health Care Facility, and breakdown and clean-up. This year we are also looking for live musical and theatrical entertainment.

Anyone interested in helping in anyway or with suggestions for new ideas, contact **Maria** at **659-2245** after 6PM. The first planning meetings will be scheduled during the month of March.

HARBOR VIEW PARTY: A suggestion was made at the February meeting, that RNA organize a springtime get-together for the residents of the **Harbor View Health Care Facility**. It has been a long and lonely winter for some of these people. We could have refreshments: punch, cookies and snacks and even hand out a few door prizes.

We are looking for volunteers, especially anyone who can play the piano or guitar and sing some songs, so we could provide some live entertainment. No definite date has been set, but we are thinking about a Sunday afternoon in May if possible. This event would not interfere with our traditional fall holiday party for these residents.

Anyone interested, call **Valerie Rea** at **653-6916** or come to the March meeting.

Recycle this Newsletter, Pass it on to a friend!

PALISADE AVENUE STEERING COMMITTEE

The **Palisade Avenue Steering Committee** (PASC) met two times during the last month - February 23rd and March 1st. The PASC is presently composed of four Heights civic groups - **RNA, Sgt. Anthony, Heights Hope** and **Palisade Avenue Coalition** and several individual residents. City Planner **Douglas Greenfeld** is also a participating member. RNA was represented at both meetings by **Doris Brown, Len Davis** and **Vito Brunetti.**

At the February 23rd meeting, the group appointed Palisade Avenue resident **Michael Fontana** to act as the Meeting Facilitator to run the meetings. Douglas Greenfeld acted as the Recording Secretary. The discussion centered on the use of **$350,000.00** in federal CDBG funds that has been appropriated by our Heights Councilmen for the Avenue.

Several people suggested that the funds be used for an immediate project to demonstrate tangible results to improving the Avenue. The projects discussed were 1) facade restoration; 2) improvements to Riverview-Fisk Park; 3) erection of a community bulletin board; and 4) the improvement of a specific corner with pavers, seating and lighting.

The group spent the rest of the meeting creating a vision statement and identifying the long-term goals and specific strategies for the PASC.

The March 1st meeting began was with an extended discussion of the plans that the Police Department has for the Avenue. **Captain Paul Wolleon, Deputy Director James Shamberg, P.O. Ed Rakowski** and **NTF Officer Chuck Lauziere** were in attendance.

The police announced that they will place a 25 foot trailer in our community to act as a mobile precinct. The vehicle will be driven into the community on a daily basis and parked on the street, taking up approximately two parking spaces. A suggestion was made that the vehicle be located at the corner of Hutton Street and the Avenue to establish a police presence in this area.

A concern was raised that a more permanent police presence was needed with the long-term placement of a trailer on an empty City or privately owned lot, such as the lot on the corner of Griffith Street and the Avenue. The police also informed the group that there would be an increased number of NTF officers patroling in our community on foot, bicycle and radio car.

The police also discussed the reopening of another arcade business on the corner of Hutton and the Avenue. There was discussion of 1) sending a letter from the PASC to the Commerce Division to express our disapproval of the issuing of a license permit for this type of facility and 2) talking to the owners of the property in an attempt to convince them not to lease their building to an arcade business.

Director Shamberg advised the group to call the Landlord Responsibility Taskforce for problem buildings in the community. This unit will coordinate multiple inspections from the following City agencies: Fire, Building, Property Conversation and Police. Complaints can be made or more information can be obtained by calling 547-5300.

After a short break, the meeting then resumed the discussion of the vision statement and the articulating of goals and specific strategies for the PASC.

A meeting to discuss CDBG funding was set-up for Monday, March 6th with Derrice Bell of the City's Division of Community Development. The next PASC meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20th at the Pershing Field Community Center, beginning at 6:30 PM.

[RNA will present the following Vision Statement and the accompanying goals and strategies at its next meeting on March 21st for discussion and acceptance with a membership vote.]

VISION STATEMENT

To create a community based organization that works to improve the physical, social and economic environment of the Palisade Avenue area. By working through a community based organization that involves residents in all aspects of the process, the PASC hopes to establish a mechanism that residents have respect for and a stake in. It is believed that this stake and respect will garner greater respect for the positive change that is effected in the area, thereby protecting positive investments and making those changes more long lasting.

GOALS

1) Inclusion of the community: all people who live, work, or own property in the Palisade Avenue area.
2) Facade restoration, stabilization and preservation.
3) Tenanting of vacant buildings.
4) Safety: increaed lighting, police presence.
5) Pass the word: education of the residents and business owners.
6) Encourage existing and new business.
7) Renovate and maintain the Parks
8) Historic Preservation
9) Aesthetic Improvements
10) Preserve unique identity of the Avenue
11) Empower the community to help itself
12) Encourage pride in the community
13) Establish a self-sustaining organization
14) Use CDBG funds for a single signature project versus using CDBG funds for a series of smaller hands-on projects that empower the community.

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COMMUNITYUPDATE

PALISADE AVENUE REPAVING PROJECT:

Kevin Sluka, Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW) has informed RNA that the resurfacing project (No. 99-013) for Palisade Avenue has been advertised for public bids. The sealed proposals will received and opened by the City Purchasing Agent on Tuesday, March 28 at 10:00 AM in the City Council Chambers. The City hopes to review the bids within 10 working days of the bid reception.

After the review process, the City will accept one bid and the contract will be awarded. Then this long over-due project to repave the Avenue from State Highway to Paterson Plank Road will begin. It will also include installation of new sidewalks and curb cuts along the Avenue.

The logistics of this project will entail the redirecting of all Avenue traffic, including auto, bus, jitney and truck onto our side-streets. The police will supervise all traffic redirection. If all goes as promised, work should begin before the end of this summer. It has been estimated that the project should be completed within one year.

Thanks to the efforts of **Councilman Arnold Bettinger**, the DPW has finally replaced the missing guard rail on New York Avenue. The guard rail will prevent the illegal dumping of debris and garbage on the adjacent lots to the road.

WARD C MEETING:

On Monday, February 28th, several members of RNA attended the Ward C Community Meeting organized by Councilman **Arnold Bettinger** and his aide **Jim King**. The main speaker was U.S. **Congressman Robert Menendez.**

Among other issues, the Congressman addressed the chronic problem of jitney buses in our community running along Palisade Avenue and Kennedy Blvd in Jersey City and throughout Hudson County. He stated that the vans are licensed by the Federal Interstate Commerce Commission because of their travel between New Jersey and New York. Currently however, there are no federal regulations as to the number of vehicles allowed in any area or the routes they should use.

He has introduced federal legislation for a waiver, which would in essence allow New Jersey to regulate these vehicles on a state level. Unfortunately, until that happens, he conceded that the only recourse is local law enforcement of traffic violations.

It was also learned that there is a proposal to build a supermarket on the site of the old Davey Company, off of Central Avenue. The local community favors the construction of residential two-family housing, similar to the development recently built on the Washington Beef property. Councilman Bettinger promised to keep the community apprised of any plans presented to the City.

PALISADE AVENUE COALITION:

On February 10th, guest speaker Council President **Tom DeGise** addressed questions about the recent controversy concerning the "redevelopment" of Palisade Avenue, the establishment of a Palisade Avenue Steering Committee and the Millennium Towers project. For more information about this group, call: **792-6390**.

HEIGHTS HOPE N.A.:

On February 17th, Councilman **Robert Cavanagh** spoke to the members of the Heights Hope community about the issues of redevelopment and tax abatements. He stated that although both are useful tools to stimulate and revitalize depressed areas in a municipality, Jersey City has a history of abusing them to the detriment of the local citizenry. For more information about this group, call: **459-0232**.

646 NEWARK AVENUE:

Members of **Sgt. Anthony** and the **Hilltop Neighborhood Associations** have been lobbying the City to complain about the chronic noise problem emanating from *La Bachata*, a new restaurant that has operated out of this location for the last six months. The City issued an entertainment license to this establishment allowing live music and dancing. However, the C-2 zoning for this area prohibits the operation of a nightclub with live music and dancing. Complaints have been filed with the ABC Board, the Zoning Officer and HEDC to resolve this problem.

1600 PARK AVENUE:

Because of scheduling conflicts and bad weather, the **Hoboken Planning Board** has not heard the application, submitted by developer **Sanford Weiss**, to build a large scale residential project, consisting of 344 units housed in two 18-story towers on Hoboken's northern waterfront.

It also appears that **Hoboken Mayor Anthony Russo** has signaled his disapproval of this project in a letter submitted to a local newspaper, stating that he opposes the developer's proposed height variance which would allow him to build 18 stories in an eight story zone.

For more information, contact **Residents for Responsible Development**, at P.O. Box 1965, Hoboken, 07030 or **(201) 795-2569.**

FRIENDS of WEEHAWKEN WATERFRONT *(FWW):*

On Saturday, February 26th, FWW held an *"Italian Night"* fundraiser dinner at the Good Shephard Lutheran Church on Park Avenue in Weehawken to rally the troops and solicit donations. FWW is a civic organization organizing their community to oppose a large-scale development proposal of private enclaves and high-rise towers along the Weehawken waterfront, submitted by Roseland Properties.

For more information about this issue, FWW can be contacted at **(201) 223-1378.**

Continued from page 4.

Palisade Avenue Steering Committee

STRATEGY

A) Establish a not-for-profit corporation to implement the vision, goals and projects:
  1) Funding:
    a) CDBG
    b) Identify other funding sources
  2) Projects:
    a) Community center
      - leadership training.
      - educational resources for skills training.
      - arts center for gallery, performing arts, coffeehouse.
      - out-reach programs.
      - paid staff supplemented by volunteers & students.
      - a municipal field office on-site to encourage the center as a destination.
  3) Small grants for individual block project administrated through local civic groups.

B) Revolving loan fund for business and home improvements.
C) Provide technical assistance and serve as a clearinghouse for information.
D) Improve pedestrian scale lighting.
E) Non-profit restaurant for Avenue.
F) Diversity training for PASC and larger community.
G) Park restoration.
H) Community bulletin board.
I) Administrators made up of paid staff and City workers.
J) UEZ/EDC funds for facade improvements.
K) Adopt more stringent design guidelines in master plan and zoning ordinance.
L) Building facade washing.
M) Preserve open space: Steep Slope Ordinance.
N) Fund organization staff.
O) Fund organization rents and expenses.

MEETING MINUTES: *February 8, 2000*

The meeting was convened at 7:45 PM by Secretary **Maria Tuzzo**. There were no guest speakers and the agenda consisted of RNA business only.

Election Nominations: The nomination process for RNA's annual elections for it's Executive Officers was opened. A second round of nominations was elicited at the end of the meeting. *[See the article on page 3 for more information.]*

Community Policing: Although Sgt. **Mark Ruby** was unable to personally attend the meeting, he gave the following information that was announced to the membership. There will be an increase in the number of police officers that will cover the two **Neighborhood Task Force** (NTF) posts that converge in our community.

NTF-6's patrol area covers Ogden to Central Avenues between Ferry and Bower Streets. Two more officers, P.O. **Barthalomew** and **Winterhalter** will join veteran officers **Conroy, Toasado, Weidmueller** and **Timmons.**

NTF-7's patrol area covers Ogden to Central Avenues between Bower Street to Paterson Plank Road. Officers **Brown** and **Luna** will join veteran officers **Schnee, Lauziere, Reyes** and **Alsinc**.

Sgt. Ruby also stated that the North District was going to organize a special Crime Prevention Seminar. The project would focus on educating senior residents, with special emphasis on the problem of daytime burglaries.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES:

There were reports from RNA's two standing subcommittees: **Palisade Avenue Steering Committee** (PASC) and **The Master Plan Committee** (MPC). The first meeting of PASC was on held on January 27th at the Pershing Field Community Center. *[A full report of the January 27th meeting was reported in the February newsletter. A separate article reporting on the two subsequent meetings held on February 23rd and March 1st are on page 4 of this issue.]*

The MPC has begun gathering information on an impending hi-rise project called Millennium Towers proposed for the area below the cliffs and to the south of our neighborhood. *[A separate article on this issue is reported on page 1 of this issue.]*

SPRING EVENTS: Kevin Mahony announced plans for the annual RNA Springtime Clean-up scheduled for May 6th. **Maria Tuzzo** discussed dates and asked for volunteers for the 16th Annual Park Fair and Flea Market to be held on June 3rd. **Jack Rea** proposed a party in May for the senior residents of the Harbor View Health Care Facility. *[Separate articles on these RNA events are reported on page 3 in this issue.]*

The meeting ended at 9:30 *Maria Tuzzo, Secretary*

BULLETIN BOARD

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

1) **Neighborhood Improvement District:** Call **547-4974** and then dial Ext. **8010** for NID Mgr. **Susan Benavides** to complain about any quality of life problem or concern on your block.

2) **PARKING AUTHORITY**: To report parking complaints call **653-6969,** and press **#9**. This number is good till 12 midnight. If there is an emergency, Mr. **Carmine Venezia**, the PA Director can be reached through his beeper 517-3367, till midnight during the weekdays and till 5 pm on Saturdays.

3) **PSEG LIGHTING:** To report a non-functioning light in the Park or on any of our streets, call PSEG at **330-6572** and leave a message with the exact location and number of the street pole.

NOTICE: **AVISO**

RNA would like to announce a new service. If you would like to receive this newsletter in Spanish, please contact Maria Tuzzo at **659-2245**.

If we receive enough requests and the translations are satisfactory, we will continue the service in order to better inform the community.

El RNA quisiera anunciar un nuevo servicio. Si usted quisiera receive este boletin de noticias en espanol por favor entran en contact con a Maria Tuzzo en **659-2245**.

Si receive bastantes peticiones y las traducciones son satisfactor continuaremos el servicio para informar mejor a la comunidad.

MARCH

March winds blow and we all think it's Spring Coming! Spring is on the way and all RNA festivals will follow. So keep thinking that and the month of April will be here soon and so will Spring.

Madeline Rea

POLICEBEAT

Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force** (NTF) Police Officers if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity through the North District's Community Service voice mail at **547-5719** or through the front desk at **547-5350**. When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message. For emergencies, call **547-5477** or **911.**

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD Narcotics Unit at **547-5714** or **547-6911**. All calls will be strictly confidential.

On the following page, RNA has reprinted a page from the 1999 edition of the **Heights Pride Booklet**, entitled Suspicious Activity / Crime Report. Please use it to write down all information about any illegal activity that you witness in our neighborhood. The information will be helpful when you make the report to the police, in their investigation and if necessary, apprehension of a suspect.

[The Heights Pride Booklet, complied by Councilman **Bill Gaughan,** *is a very helpful resource guide to municipal services. Copies can be obtained by calling Tom Dolan, the Councilman's aide at 547-4576 or picking it up at his Heights office at the Municipal Building at 325 Palisade Avenue.]*

2000 MEMBERSHIP DUES entitles a resident to voting privileges and 12 issues of the RNA monthly newsletter. Pay the **$7.00** annual dues at the next meeting or send a check payable to RNA to 232 Ogden Avenue.

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Tell us how you feel about the quality of life on your block or in your neighborhood. Have your voice heard! Send all articles, comments and/or recipes to 232 Ogden Ave.

The next deadline is Friday, **March 24th.**

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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HELP US PATROL OUR STREETS!

We Need You - Please Contact Us By Phone or Mail

THE JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT POLICE 282 CENTRAL AVENUE
547-5350 FRONT DESK - 547-5719 NTF OFFICE OR 911

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/CRIME REPORT

WAS THIS A (CHECK ONE) ____CRIME _____SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:
ALCOHOL DRINKING:_____BURGLARIES_____DISORDERLY
GROUPS___NARCOTICS ACTIVITY__NOISE__PROSTITUTION____
WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? DATE:_____TIME:_____

Where Did it Happen?
STREET_____
ADDRESS_____
NEAREST CROSS STREET:_____

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION

__MALE___FEMALE___Age___Height____Weight_____Race_____
Hair Color_____Mustache, beard_____Glasses___Color of eyes_____
Tatttoos, amputations, scars and/or other distinguishing marks_____
Noticeable accents or special characteristics of speech_____

CLOTHING

Shirt____Coat____Trousers____Shoes_____Tie_____Hat
Rings, Bracelets, Necklaces or Earings:_____

WEAPON

Handgun_____Rifle_____Knife_____Club_____Other____

DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE

Make_____Year_____Body Style_____Color_____
License Number_____State___(If unable to identify state, color of license):____
Identifying dents, scratches, wheels, markings

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

Name_____

Address_____ Phone No._____

PARKING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY

394 CENTRAL AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, N.J. 07307
(201) 653-6969
fax (201) 653-7617

PARKING PERMIT APPLICATION

Name:

Address:

Driver's License #:	License Plate #:
Home Phone #:	Business Phone #:

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above information is true.

Signature of applicant Date

THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY MERCHANT, EMPLOYER OR SCHOOL OF ZONED AREA

Name of Business/School:

Address:

Phone #:

Executive Officer/Registrar:

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above information is true.

Signature of Executive Officer/Registrar Date

PREREQUISITES

1. A copy of driver's license & vehicle registration
2. Fee
   - A. **RESIDENT:** $5.00 per year per vehicle
     TEMPORARY: $5.00 *(valid for 90 days)*
     TRANSFER FEE: $1.00
   - B. **NON-RESIDENT:** $250.00 per year *(limited to one vehicle)* *(include copy of current W-2)*
     TEMPORARY: $250.00 *(valid for 90 days)*

NO PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL ALL SUMMONSES PENDING WITH THE JERSEY CITY VIOLATIONS BUREAU ARE SETTLED.

Make non-refundable check or money order payable to ***the Jersey City Parking Authority.***
(Do not send cash)

THIS APPLICATION MAY BE FREELY REPRODUCED.

C#_____ M# _____ P#_____ D S _____

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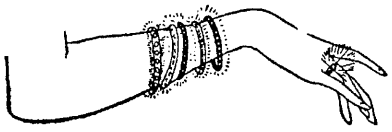
Tel. 659-1263 *Sam Koralja, Prop.*



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ACE

PLACE YOUR
AD HERE

(IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTSING IN THE RNA NEWSLETTER, PLEASE MAIL YOUR BUSINESS CARD AND A CHECK [EITHER $10/ONE MONTH OR $60/NINE MONTHS] TO RNA, 232 OGDEN AVENUE, JERSEY CITY, N.J. 07307).

Help Stop the Millenium Towers project:
Tuesday March 14th, Planning Board
Council Chambers City Hall

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

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07302
PERMIT NO. 153
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Riverview Neighborhood Association

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

KevinMahoney
Vice-chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

Beth D'Errico
Treasurer

Len Davis
Sargent at Arms

COMING EVENTS:

STOP THE MILLENIUM TOWERS PROJECT

Planning Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 14th, 6:00 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall, 280 Grove St.

RNA MEETING

Tuesday, March 21, 7:15 PM
Harbor View Health Care Center
AGENDA:

1) RNA ELECTIONS
2) Reports on PASC and Millenium Towers
3) NTF and NID Updates
4) Guest Speaker: KEVIN SLUKA, Dir., DPW will discuss the following:
   a) the re-paving of Palisade Avenue;
   b) traffic problem on Ogden Avenue between Bower to Congress Street; and
   c) Riverview-Fisk Park, including the hiring of a park attendant, the cleaning of the cliffs below the Park, the repair and maintenance of the children's playground.